



THE

Northern Brewer

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT NORTHERN BREWERS CLUB

June 2025

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July 15, 2025
BBQ

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Contact information via our website

The Prez Sez

By Elizabeth "Liz" Greer

Summer fun has started...with a long May, it seems I am a little more prepared for June this year. Three carboys of beer ready to keg/bottle and a batch of seltzer pending. I somehow won the bragging rights to the Denali Wort share challenge. Thanks for those who appreciated my bock – probably not the best, but good enough to be in most people's top five.... I like the ranked choice! I did get a little giggle as one of our members dropped by when I was brewing my wort additions, and was chiding me on my mediocre methods. After brewing for over 30 years (I am that old) I am ok with a few short-cuts. Here are some of the upcoming events below with more info in the Newsletter!

June 7: GNBC Ladies Brewbie's Run for Women

June 15: Mead Move – help requested. Mead rewards. We need to relocate a large quantity of a club member's mead. Contact Mike Kiker or president@greatnorthernbrewers.org

June 19-22: Campout at Trail River, Moose Pass Area

June 21: Stoney Creek Brewery Tour noon

July 4: Club Parade Float in the Talkeetna July 4th noon

July 15: BBQ and Tartside Challenge

August: State Fair Competition and Judging

If you have thoughts on some fun activities, please let me or one of the officers know. More information on the club and events on the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Gnbc1/> & website
<https://greatnorthernbrewers.org/>

Cheers!

Secretary's Corner:

May Meeting at MSBC & Denali Wort Share

By Gwen Higgins



As usual, the May meeting was different from our usual meeting format and instead focused on judging the Denali Wort Share competition. Midnight Sun Brewing Company hosted the meeting in their warehouse, as having a large open space to hold a table large enough for all of the entries was essential.

This year there were over 20 entries in the competition, and participants took the base of Denali's Agave Gold wort, in a wide variety of directions. Some brewers added other malt varieties for darker beers. Others upped the hops to make IPAs or added fruit. While some entrants stuck with lager yeast, others chose ale strains.

Attendees were given tickets to vote, which they could allocate to different beers they liked or spend all on a single beer. Once voting was completed the following brewers/beers were announced as the top five vote-getters:

1. Elizabeth Greer - Bock
2. Cody Baggett - West Coast IPA
3. Mike Cragen - Pina Colada Agave
4. Andre Koehrer - South of the Border Lager
5. Rick Levinson - Agave Saison

These results highlight the versatility of the wort, as well as the creativity and skill of our club members.

Thanks, as always, to Sassan and Denali Brewing for providing the wort for the competition, as well as Midnight Sun for hosting. Thanks also to Mike, Tish, Lisa and Eileen for support/organization!

If you missed this meeting, there will be another judging opportunity at the club BBQ in July, when we'll vote for our favorite entries into Turnagain Brewing's Tartside Challenge.



Membership Report: Membership June 2025

By Steve Johnson

Especially for folks who are not now members of the Great Northern Brewing Club: there is a SPECIAL DEAL for paying dues between May 1st and September 30th. Your dues payment during the last four months of our member-year also includes the next member-year. Pay for their membership now, and receive your membership card in a few days. In September you will receive next year's membership card as soon as it is printed. By joining now, you get immediate access to the discounts at Arctic Brewing Supply and La Bodega and all of the activities for more than a head ahead.

One member recently mentioned a concern about joining in May: the club schedules no monthly meetings in June, July or August. That is true, but the club has other activities during the summer. June has the annual camp out on July 19th-22nd, this year at Trail River Campground, Moose Pass, Alaska. For GNBC members and family, there is no rental fee for your tent or trailer space. July has the club float in the 4th of July Parade in Talkeetna. An event not to be missed is the Tartside Challenge judging and BBQ on July 15th in Anchorage. August has the State Fair Homebrew Competition at the Fairground in Palmer. Participate as a brewer or as a judge. Details are in the May newsletter.

A convenient way to purchase a membership is to use the form on the club website. The club pays a small fee for the credit card processing by PayPal. PayPal provides an audit trail for payments, transfers payments to the bank, and makes work easier for the membership coordinator. A PayPal account is not required — only a credit card. To arrange payment in cash or by check, query membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org.

Happy Brewing!

Steve Johnson, Membership Coordinator. membership@greatnorthernbrewers.org

READING ABOUT BEER AND BREWING – June 2025

Steve Johnson

This year, the American Homebrewers Association (AHA), founded in 1978 by Charlie Papazian, announced it is becoming independent from the Brewers Association (BA), the voice of the craft beer industry. AHA has been a program of the Brewers Association since 1998. The AHA chronology is somewhat confusing because the Brewers Association was a new name for the Association of Brewers, a doing-business-as name for AHA. And a merger with another organization of brewers took place about that time. In any case, after AHA again becomes an independent non-profit [501(c)(3)], rather than part of an entity organized as a business league [501(c)(6)], later changes may involve Zymurgy, AHA's bimonthly journal. The loss of affiliation with the business league may also affect the AHA-mediated alcohol liability insurance purchased annually by the Great Northern Brewers Club.

Rather than speculate on changes to come in Zymurgy or the insurance program, I will note a change that has already taken place. **AHA has opened its forum to non-members.** Not a change of titanic proportions and a change likely to go unnoticed in a world when good (and bad) advice and yakking about beer and brewing abound on a variety of YouTube channels, podcasts, blogs, substacks, and reddit. And there is also HomeBrewTalk.com, a commercial forum established in 2004 (per Google's AI search, Gambrinus help me).

Forums, such as the AHA Forum and HomeBrewTalk, seem a holdover from an earlier age of the internet. Thirty years ago e-mail and mailing lists were a new and vital source for the exchange of

information. Then they became the source of too much email and an abundance of trolling and pointless arguments. Nonetheless, forums and even mailing lists linger for the posting of questions, occasional answers, and the inconsequential chatter that binds social groups. In other words, forums disclose few secrets of brewing even when serious questions are answered correctly and in a useful time frame.

So, **why write about the AHA Forum** in the newsletter of the Great Northern Brewers Club? Most GNBC members are not AHA members and, until the recent policy change, could not participate at forum.homebrewersassociation.org. For those folks, now is your opportunity. The site will likely ask you to register and create a password. If you use Chrome or Chromium as your browser, pointing at site:forum.brewersassociation.org will retrieve a sample of content spanning many years. That "site:url here" search formula doesn't work on other browsers.

Why not write about the AHA forum? If a much higher percentage of GNBC members also belonged to AHA, this news would be old news. And AHA, rather than GNBC, would be paying for our annual liability insurance. In that counter-factual world, I would not have written this column.

So why did AHA open its forum? Perhaps to attract more people to AHA, people who might join after spending time on the site and wondering about access to back issues of Zymurgy. Perhaps some AHA folks thought that the leading national organization of homebrewers should also host the leading discussion forum on the subject. As it happens, the leading forum on the subject is probably HomeBrewTalk.com. Much of the HomeBrewTalk is freely available. Recurring donations (of money, not beer) yield special privileges, such as private forums and disabling of ads. The site features banner ads from Brewer's Friend Recipe Builder, CornyKeg.com and other relevant businesses.

In conclusion: Your correspondent occasionally enjoys reading about beer and brewing on old fashioned forums, especially when the discussions are civil and lack the trolling and invective once common on mailing lists. The forums at AHA and HomeBrewTalk satisfy that occasional desire.



Talkeetna July 4th Parade with GNBC

Meet up to decorate the GNBC Float... 10am at the Denali Education Center. Then join us in the noon parade!

Camping available on Yoder Road, or potentially in town. Contact President@greatnorthernbrewers.org for camping info.

BBQ and Bottle Share Saturday July 5 @5pm, at John Craig's place on Yoder Road/S. Southfork Road 62.156590, -149.910916 (1.4 miles from the end of Yoder on S. Southfork, look for the flags)



Club Clothes!

You can now order GNBC Hoodies and Tee Shirts online! The Teespring link has been updated and is ready to roll. Nice Looking Blue Recommended, or pink for the Brewbies Run for Women! Here is the link to use:



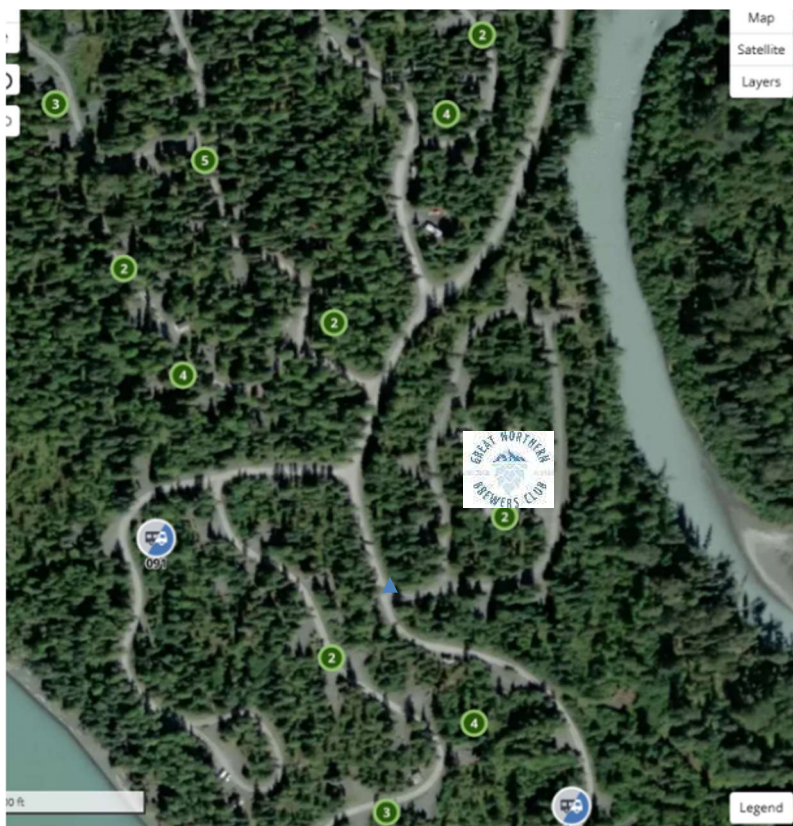
<https://my-store-59c1d0.creator-spring.com/listing/greatnorthernbrewersclubshirt>



Great Northern Brewers Club - Campout 2025

Trail River Campground

Thursday, June 19 @ 4pm – Sunday, June 22 @ 11am Potluck



Party Saturday 7pm (ish)

No charge for GNBC members and guests.

What to Bring: Pretty much everything and anything:

R.V.s, campers, tents, canopies, bikes, boats, games, food, something for the Saturday Potluck Party, and of course BEER!

There is a shared restroom

Pets are welcome as long as they are friendly and leashed if needed.

Stoney Creek Brewery Tour – Greg Haas will be providing a tour of his brewery in Bear Valley (near Seward). **Saturday June 21. Noon-1pm at 33366 Stoney Creek Ave.**

Some may want to head to Seward first for breakfast, then skip lunch and have room for the evening Potluck!

In-Person Race Day Details for June 7, 2025or you can run on your own



The Great Northern Brewer's Club has been supporting this event for many years. The gals do the run and guys sometimes support us by meeting on this running route with some libations!

Distances

5-mile timed & untimed

1-mile untimed

Start/finish: UAA Campus near Cuddy Quad 3400 Seawolf Dr. Anchorage 99508

For more information or to sign up go to: <https://www.akrfw.org/>

Be sure sign up for team **BREWBIES GNBC**

About the Alaska Run for Women

Mission Statement

"To raise money for and awareness of breast cancer and women's health, and to showcase the talents of Alaska's women athletes."

This is accomplished through: an annual women's run/walk event that serves as a vehicle for fundraising, participation, awareness and competition, and grant making to organizations concerned with breast cancer research, education, outreach, prevention and early detection

Upcoming Competitions for 2025

By Ira Edwards

Extract from the April 2025 Article:

Homebrewing competitions are not just about winning. I think the best part is getting honest feedback on your beverages. And as a judge who brews I think it is also awesome to be able to judge unique recipes to keep up to date with what is happening in the brewing community and perhaps work that into my future brews. I personally like beers, meads and Ciders that don't really fit into any exact BJCP (Beer Judge Certification Program) style and I use to Carpet bomb competitions and enter the same beer in multiple categories just to see where it fit best. I have also won several medals at the national homebrewing competition after winning the regional qualifications in those categories. I am also a National level BJCP judge for the last 20+ years and I want to work with the club on getting some judging educational programs going again and perhaps run some exams and get people certified as well. Please contact me on your interest in BJCP classes and exams... Below is a list I have started with upcoming competitions that you can start brewing for. I encourage you to participate and learn more about the brewing process as well as the judging process.

American Homebrewers Association - National Homebrew Competition.

<https://www.homebrewersassociation.org/national-homebrew-competition/>

This event is happening right now, so it is a little late to get rolling for this year, but I encourage you to look at this event and plan for next year. GNBC has participated in judging the regional event a few times in the past and we have had many great judges travel up here to help.

Southeast BeerFest

May 23-24 in Haines. For more than 30 years they have had a homebrew competition alongside the

Update from the Fair

Submit entries to the Palmer Alaska State Fairgrounds

Submit entries to Arctic Brewing Supply

Attend Craft Beverages Entry Judging

Review the contact information and entry guide for the Craft Beverages Event at

<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/craft-beverages-2025/>

beerfest. More details to come. <https://seakfair.org/beerfest/>

Alaska State Fair Homebrewing Competition

Aug 9-10 probable judging dates. There is a new beverage administrator at the fair and I will work with them to ensure that this will be a BJCP registered event so you can get judging experience points.

Valdez Oktoberfest Homebrew Competition

Will occur during the festival September 19-20. More details to come soon.

<https://www.facebook.com/valdezoktoberfest/>

Big Fish

Early December 2025 at Humpy's/Sub Zero. This is one of GNBC's oldest events and usually resulted in the winning beer being brewed by Midnight Sun Brewing Co. This will be a BJCP registered event so you can get judging experience points. I intend to run this competition. More details to come soon.

There are sometimes other competitions that come up and I will let the club know as plans develop.



Alaska State Fair 2025

Craft Beverages Competition



Get ready for the 2025 State Fair Craft Beverage Competition!

This year's event will include many Divisions and Classes to enter. There are also Divisions for Non- Alcoholic Beverages and Label Competition. Professionals are also encouraged to enter in a designated Sub-Category.

Entries can be:

- Dropped off at the Fairgrounds – Hoskins Building on **Friday, August 1, or Saturday, August 2**, from 11 am – 7 pm.
- Dropped off at Arctic Brewing Supply in Anchorage, July 16- 31 by 5pm.
- Mailed in. Mailing entries is highly encouraged.

*The Beer Competition Judging Sessions will be held on **Friday/Saturday August 8 & 9 pm at the Fairgrounds**. Judges and “TAPS Certified” Stewards, especially those with experience, are needed. Please consider supporting this event and helping out; contact the Competition Superintendent.*

Additional Information: <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/craft-beverages-2025/>

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